

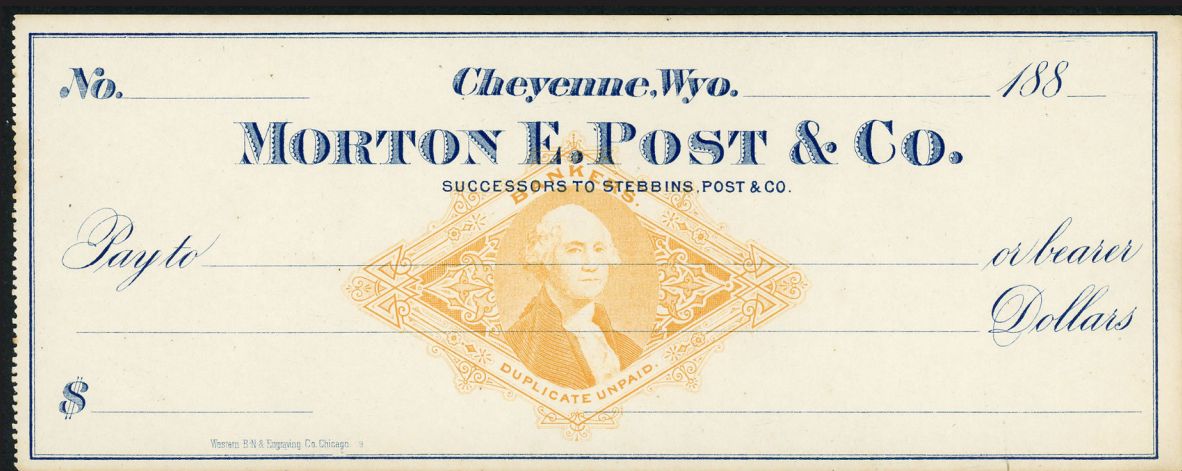
THE CHECK COLLECTOR

July - September 2015

The Journal of

Number 115

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS, INC.



Editor: Robert D. Hohertz
PO Box 808
Northfield, MN 55057-0808
rdh@northfieldmail.com

Advertising Manager: All advertising should be channeled through the Treasurer, Dick Naven. Dick's address is on the following page.

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To our members:

Write something for *The Check Collector*! We **need** articles about checks, check-related subjects, and fiscal documents.

We retype all material that does not respond to OCR. Illustrations require an **original**, or a **good, clear, color copy**, or a **300 dpi scan**. A clear black and white copy is acceptable, but we greatly prefer color. Original checks sent in are copied and returned carefully. Any questions, ask the Editor!

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In this issue we take a look at some of the tea in China, are asked to help with a search, and take a brief look at some finds. Our journey through territorial paper is continued, and I walk us through part of a "shady byway," as someone once described the study of imprinted parlor car tickets.

The cover features two territorial checks with revenue imprint facsimilies used by banks that felt their customers were so used to having revenue imprints on their checks that they offered designs that looked like imprints to take the place of the revenues when the tax was lifted. The top check is from Meridith and Ailman of Silver City. See page 16 in this issue to learn more about this bank.

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THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS, INC.

A non-profit organization organized under Section 501-(c)-(3)

President:

Hermann Ivester
5 Leslie Circle
Little Rock, AR 72205-2529
ivesters@swbell.net

Vice-President:

Donald Woodworth
1104 Timber Run
O'Fallon, IL 62269-3127
don.woodworth@att.net

Secretary:

Lyman Hensley
473 East Elm
Sycamore, IL 60178-1934
ilrno2@netzero.net

Treasurer:

Dick Naven
PO Box 80830
Portland, OR 97280-1830
ascctreasurer@qwestoffice.net

Directors:

Lyman Hensley (2016)
Bob Hohertz (2016)
Hermann Ivester (2016)
M. S. Kazanjian (2016)
Chris Jones (2017)
Donald Woodworth (2017)
Dick Naven (2017)
Myron Ross (2017)
Coleman Leifer (Emeritus)
Lee E. Poleske (Emeritus)

Departments:**Attorney:**

Hermann Ivester
5 Leslie Circle
Little rock, AR 72205-2529

Check Pool:

no current incumbent

Editor, *The Check Collector*:

Bob Hohertz - see previous page

Librarian:

Charles V. Kemp
PO Box 71892
Madison Hts, MI 48071

Security Printers:

William G. Kanowsky
Unit 103
1100 Erie Ave
Evansville, IN 47715

Slide Program:

Larry Adams
812 1/2 Story St.
Boone, IA 50036

Website: <http://ascheckcollectors.org>

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Tea for Two

By Don Woodworth, ASCC

Anyone with even a general understanding of United States history has undoubtedly heard of the famous Boston Tea Party. On the night of Dec 16, 1773, members of Boston, Massachusetts Sons of Liberty disguised themselves as Native Americans and dumped overboard the entire shipment of 46 tons of tea arriving in Boston aboard vessels of the British East India Company. This was in defiance of the Tea Act of May 10, 1773. The 342 chests of tea that were dumped overboard that night no doubt provided a wonderful tea party for the fish and also brewed up one of the precipitating events of the American Revolution. In case you are wondering, this would have worked out to about 18,523,200 cups of tea!

At a date about 100 years removed from the seminal event there was another tea tax being paid, this time in support of Union military operations during the American Civil War. Technically, what I'm writing about here is not actually a tax on tea but a two-cent documentary tax required to be paid during and somewhat after the American Civil War on receipts and on checks (amongst many other items) - but - the documents under discussion pertain to the shipment and sale of tea in the United States, hence, the linkage to the earlier events of the Revolutionary War.

In 2012 I bought the interesting check shown in Figure 1 from revenue stamp dealer Eric Jackson. I had never before seen this uncommon design and thus jumped at the chance to buy it. I have seen only one other since then - on eBay in June of 2015.

Serendipitously in June of 2015 I saw a receipt with a Scott number R15c U.S.I.R. revenue stamp affixed to it offered for sale on eBay. I quite liked the vignette at the upper left of the receipt and a small voice in my subconscious kept saying, "Buy it!" I listened to the voice and did so. When later entering it into my data base, I finally realized what I was being told! The document was a receipt for the sale of tea by the same firm that would have used the check shown in Figure 1!



Figure 1. Unused RN-C1 Herrick & Houghtaling, Importers and Jobbers of Teas, check of 187- on the National Shoe and Leather Bank of New York. Note the interesting vignette of two Chinese men carrying a shipment of tea.

With the help of friends, I was able to get a translation of the Chinese characters on the boxes of tea that the two men are carrying. The characters on the top and right sides of the box are too indistinct to be read. Those that are clearly shown on the side of the box initially resisted translation - until it was discovered that the engraving is backward! Once correctly oriented, the writing was discovered to read from the upper two boxes to lower two boxes, left to right, "Guangdong Province Color Paper"! It would seem that the engraver, likely not being familiar with the Chinese language, cut the die as the text would read normally rather than in reverse so that it would read normally when printed. While I am not sure why these two laborers would have been carrying colored paper, it is perhaps significant that the words Guangdong Province appear on the box, as this was the province from which much oolong tea originated.

The queues (pigtails) worn by the two men in the Figure 1 vignette were typical of those worn during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912), the last in a long succession of Chinese dynasties that ended with local uprisings that began on October 11, 1911 and which led to the 1911 Revolution and the overthrow of China's last imperial dynasty. The last emperor, Henry Pu Yi, abdicated on February 12, 1912, setting off a long series of turbulent events that eventually led to the formation of the modern People's Republic of China.²


This specific male hairstyle was worn by the Manchu people from central Manchuria. The hairstyle consisted of the hair on the front of the head being shaved off above the temples every ten days and the rest of the hair braided into a long ponytail. The Manchu hairstyle was forcibly imposed upon the Han Chinese by the Qing Dynasty in the early 17th century during the Manchu conquest of China.

The Manchu hairstyle was significant because it was a symbol of Han submission to Qing rule. The queue also aided the Manchus in identifying those Han who refused to accept Qing dynasty domination. The queue was the only aspect of Manchu culture which the Qing forced on the common Han population. The Qing required people serving as officials to wear Manchu clothing, but allowed non-official Han civilians to continue wearing Hanfu (Han clothing). The hairstyle was compulsory for all males. The penalty for non-compliance was execution for treason. In the early 1910s, after the fall of the Qing dynasty, male Chinese were no longer forced to wear this hair style.³

Are you Insured? NEW YORK, *Oct 1* 1868

Mess *M Friend & Son* Penn Mines Lake Superior Mich

Bought of HERRICK & HOUGHTALING, Importers and Jobbers of TEAS,

 B. D. HERRICK, D. H. HOUGHTALING, } TERMS NET CASH, Payable in New York. { Nos. 14 & 16 Vesey Street. NEXT TO THE ASTOR HOUSE.

NO EXCHANGE ALLOWED. Prompt payment expected on Terms agreed upon.

4	3	Oolong O. Chief	30 1/2					
			5954 8959	234	56	178	1	10 195 80
2	"	Hyson	397	82				
1	"	Japan	4948	154	32	125	1	20 150
		Alexanorina	70					
			54	12	42	105	44	10
								75
								390 65
								15 62
								375 03

Team *my CRB* *Paid Oct 2. 1868* *Herrick & Houghtaling* *Leas 4%*

Figure 2. Receipt for the sale of Oolong tea, Hyson tea, and Japan Alexanorina sold by the firm of Herrick & Houghtaling, Importers and Jobbers of Teas, Nos. 14 & 16 Vesey Street, New York, NY on Oct 1, 1868 to Penn Mines near Lake Superior, Michigan.

Herrick & Houghtaling

The proprietors of Herrick & Houghtaling, Importers and Jobbers of Teas in 1868 were Byron D. Herrick and David H. Houghtaling. Their business, like many others, morphed over time.

The company was listed as Billinge, Herrick & Houghtaling in the *1866-67 New York City Business Directory*.⁴ By October of 1868, it had become simply Herrick & Houghtaling, suggesting that Mr. Billinge had bowed out of the partnership sometime between 1867 and late 1868. A receipt with an apparent date of August 1871 (date information is hard to read) shows Herrick & Houghtaling to be located at 335 Broadway corner of Worth St. As opposed to the image of a building as shown in Figure 2, the receipt also uses the vignette of the Chinese laborers shown in Figure 1.



Figure 3. An unused check of Billinge, Herrick & Houghtaling, the precursor to Herrick & Houghtaling.

A note in the *New York Daily Tribune* of Jan 28 1873 notes that B. D. Herrick & Co., tea merchants, late of No. 22 Front Street, had moved to No. 15 Warren, where they exhibited a fine collection of a new crop of teas.⁵ Records indicate that in 1872, the firm of Herrick & Houghtaling had been dissolved (exact date unknown), but a good guess would be rather late in the year as Mr. Herrick's move to new premises as an independent firm in early January 1873 suggests this timing. The 22 Front Street address might have represented a temporary, transitional place of business between the time he was partners with David H. Houghtaling at Nos. 14 & 16 Vesey Street and the time he became completely independent.

Gouldings Business Directory of New York, Brooklyn, Paterson, Jersey City, and Hoboken for 1875 listed two separate firms: B. D. Herrick & Co. at 15 Warren Street, and, D. H. Houghtaling & Co. at 39 Broadway.⁶ The tea importation business must have been highly competitive, as these were but two of a total of 34 companies listed in the business, most of which were clustered just a block or so inland from the East River riverfront on the southeast edge of Manhattan Island on Pearl and Front Streets. This would have put them close to the East River docks where much of the tea originating in Asia was landed.

In 1885, the D. H. Houghtaling & Co was listed at 142 Front Street in the membership roster of the Importers' and Grocer's Exchange, better known as the Tea Exchange. Mr. Herrick was not listed, suggesting that he had either gone out of business or had elected not to join the Exchange.⁷

It would seem that tea, being a highly portable commodity, made it easy to shift business premises as partnerships morphed over time. Aside from the physical bother of moving, the biggest problem would likely have been keeping vendors, customers and the post office apprised of events so that business did not wither as changes were made.

The Tea Exchange did not last long, being founded in 1883 and ceasing to exist in the fall of 1885. During its short existence, it facilitated a large business in tea futures but foundered when it came to delivery time because graders could come to no common agreement on the subject of product quality. The group considered merging with the New York Coffee Exchange but this idea came to naught and the organization disbanded.

On the Subject of Tea

The vignette on Figure 1 is absolutely wonderful – the only such one that I've seen in over ten years of collecting revenue stamped paper (RSP). Allegorical figures, eagles, young women, trains, ships, etc. all abound on RSP – but this vignette is the only one I have ever seen of two Chinese men carrying a shipment of tea. (Or colored paper?)

The Herrick & Houghtaling receipt shown in Figure 2 lists the sale of three items, two of which (oolong and hyson) are clearly teas. Japan Alexanonina is somewhat more problematic.

- Oolong
- Hyson
- Japan Alexanonina.

Oolong Tea. The name *oolong tea* came into the English language from the Chinese words meaning, meaning "black dragon." It is a traditional Chinese tea (*Camellia sinensis*) produced through a unique process including withering the plant under the strong sun and oxidation before curling and twisting the leaves. In this case, oxidation would have been an enzymatic process aimed at developing the flavor of the tea. Most oolong teas, especially those of fine quality, involve unique tea plant cultivars that are exclusively used for particular varieties. The degree of oxidation varies widely depending on the variety and production style. The taste of oolong varies widely among different sub-varieties. It can be sweet and fruity with honey aromas, or woody and thick with roasted aromas, or green and fresh with bouquet aromas, all depending on the horticulture and style of production.

Different varieties of oolong are processed differently, but the leaves are formed into one of two distinct styles. Some are rolled into long curly leaves, while others are 'wrap-curled' into small beads, each with a tail. The former style is the more traditional of the two in China. Interestingly, at least one distinct family of oolong teas originated from Guangdong Province, located in southeast China on the coast of the China Sea. Over time, this province was the source of the greatest migration from China to other places – such as California during the Gold Rush of 1849. As of 2005, it became the most populous province in China.⁸

Hyson Tea. Hyson, or Lucky Dragon Tea, is a Chinese green tea that comes from the Anhui province of China. Anhui is a land-locked province located in east central China along the basin of the Yangtze and Huai Rivers. As with oolong, green tea is made from the leaves from *Camellia sinensis* that have undergone minimal oxidation during processing. It is made from young leaves that are thinly rolled to have a long, twisted appearance that unfurls when brewed. The name Hyson is likely a Chinese name meaning "flourishing spring." However, some believe it was named after an English tea merchant, Phillip Hyson. While hyson tea is often thought of as a low-grade or mediocre quality tea, young hyson is considered high quality. It is harvested earlier, "before the rains," (i.e. monsoon rains) and has a full-bodied, pungent taste and is golden in color.⁹

Those wishing to know more about tea processing can find an interesting article at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tea_processing.

Japan Alexanonina. I could find virtually no information on this item. The little I did find was that Japan Alexanonina Japan Alexanorina (or Alexandrina), in pharmacy, is a kind of opiate, or antidote, against the cholic and apoplexy, composed of a great number of ingredients. Remembering back to my New England childhood when hot tea and toast was considered a good treatment for a variety of ailments, it may be that Japan Alexanonina was some sort of elixir that could be brewed along with tea as a treatment for colds or other related ailments.¹⁰

The destination to which the Japan Alexanonina noted on the Figure 2 receipt was shipped (Penn Mines, Lake Superior, Michigan) lends credence to the foregoing notion. Bless the express company or railroad clerk who was able to deduce that Penn Mines was located in the Menominee iron range in the vicinity of Norway, Michigan. The Penn Mines complex included the Cyclops, Norway, West Vulcan, Curry, and Brier Mines, all in the vicinity of Norway. The company was in business until at least 1911.

The company operated a general store in Norway, William Kelly superintendent. It is likely that the company store was the destination of the shipment from Herrick & Houghtaling. Miners being miners, it would not have been surprising that many of their minor and not so minor ailments were "medicated" with things alcoholic but it would not be surprising that

some sort of opiate-based brew (as in Japan Alexanonina) would have served the same purpose.¹¹

Tea was shipped in wooden cases lined with metal foil sheets made of lead. They had their edges strengthened with one inch by one inch boards and with metal edges to this assembly. At some time, perhaps after 1925, aluminum foil was substituted for lead foil. The chests were intended for a one-way trip and were generally sold for non-food use at the end of their trip from Asia.

Tea was generally shipped via two methods – in “full chest” which weighed about 90-112 lb. and held 353 lb. of tea. Higher grade teas were shipped in “quarter chests” which had a somewhat lighter tare weight than “full chests” and contained about 90 lb. of tea. The tea was shipped loose but was tightly compressed within the chest. Given that the men in Figure 1 are carrying two boxes of tea, it is likely that their load consists of two “quarter chests” of high grade tea (perhaps oolong) as they would have had to be supermen to carry two “full chests.”¹²

National Shoe and Leather Bank

The National Shoe and Leather Bank was founded by merchants associated with the leather trade in New York City. It was organized under New York state law in 1853. Its original place of business was at the corner of William and John Streets. Loring Andrews, a merchant prominent and successful in the leather business, was its first president.

In 1855, the bank moved to 271 Broadway, at the southwest corner of Chambers Street, on which site a white marble bank and office building, valued at a quarter of a million dollars, was erected. It adjoined the Chemical National Bank, and stood across the street from the County Court-House located in City-Hall Park. In 1865 it became a national bank, with capital remaining at \$500,000. Steady prosperity attracted and retained business from the hardware and numerous other conservative lines of trade located in its vicinity. Its management included representatives of such businesses in addition to prominent and wealthy capitalists. As of 1892, its surplus and undivided profits amounted to nearly \$300,000, and its total resources were \$5,400,000, the aggregate line of deposits reaching \$4,500,000. The \$100 par value of shares of the bank's stock was quoted at \$160 – certainly a mark of strength and prosperity.



Figure 4. Another unusual vignette adorns this early check from the National Shoe and Leather Bank. H.A. Hogel's name is associated with several patents for a pumping apparatus and ore processing.

In 1892, John M. Crane, the president of the National Shoe and Leather Bank, was one of the longest serving bank officials in the city of New York, having entered the service of the bank shortly after its founding, soon becoming its cashier, and later rising to the office of bank president. George L. Pease was the bank's vice president and William D. Van Vleck the all-important cashier. The Board of Directors of the National Shoe and Leather Bank in 1892 was composed of the following businessmen: William Sulzbacher, of Sulzbacher, Gitterman & Wedeles, woolen importers; Thomas Russell, thread; Theodore M. Ives, thread; John M. Crane, President National Shoe and Leather Bank; George L. Pease, of the Bocrum & Pease Co.; and Joseph S. Stout, banker; Alonzo Slote, of Trendwell & Slote, clothing;

The bank prospered particularly under Mr. Crane, garnering accounts not only from local banking institutions but from



those across the United States as well. The bank's prosperity made it attractive to other financial institutions. As a result, on April 1 1906 it was acquired by merger by the Metropolitan Bank and lost its identity.¹³

Figure 5. Photograph of the National Shoe and Leather Bank at its 171 Broadway location, corner of Chambers Street, in New York City circa 1892.

Byron D. Herrick

Little information could be found on Byron D. Herrick, one of the two partners of the Herrick & Houghtaling tea importation firm. I was able to piece together a brief outline of his life from multiple snippets of information.

He was born on Dec 17 1829. He was married in 1862 to Mary Elizabeth Simonton. Together, they had at least one child, a daughter Mary Louise born on Aug 31 1863. He was elected to the New York City Chamber of Commerce on May 23 1868. This would have been an obviously useful move on his part given that he made his living selling tea. He died on April 25 1896, age 66 years, in Manhattan, NY.¹⁴

David H. Houghtaling

David Harrison Houghtaling, tea merchant, was born in Kingston, N.Y., May 17, 1834 to an old Knickerbocker family. He was lineal descendant of Jan Williamson Hooteyling, who came from Loosdrecht, Holland, to Kingston, NY on May 9 1661. He had two sisters. His father was Henry Houghtaling. He was educated at Kingston Academy, which existed as an educational institution from 1774 until 1830, when replaced by a newer facility elsewhere in Kingston. The original building was burned by the British in 1777. The much-altered replacement building (now repurposed) of 1778 still stands at 82 John St., corner of Crown St., in Kingston, NY.

The young man found a clerkship in New York City in 1850. Growing prosperity enabled him to marry Laura M. McAlister of Waterloo, NY in 1858. Over time, they had two children: Warren R. and Martha Houghtaling. By 1860, Mr. Houghtaling had progressed to the point of opening a tea importation business on his own account. He had many other business interests besides that of his tea company. He was elected a director in The National Bank of North America, The United States Life Insurance Co., and The Third National Bank in New York City; a trustee of The Franklyn Trust Co. of Brooklyn, and director of the Richmond Railway & Electric Co., and many other corporations.

Politically, he was a Republican. He served two terms as Park Commissioner under New York Mayor Seth Low, but steadfastly declined further public office. He owned considerable real estate in Brooklyn, where he resided. By virtue of his ancestry, he was a member of The Holland Society and also held memberships in the Metropolitan, Union League and Down Town clubs of NYC and the Hamilton Club of Brooklyn, and was president of the Oxford Club for several years. He was a member of the First Dutch Church. In 1891, he donated a stained glass window to the church, to be placed behind the pulpit in memory of his parents Henry and Ann Van Bramer Houghtaling.

He died at his home at 17 E 35th Street, New York after a short illness on Feb 14 1913, leaving behind his and two children. His wife had apparently predeceased him.¹⁵

Acknowledgement

I acknowledge the wisdom of my friend Steve Goaring for his exceptionally good sense in marrying his wife Shu Ying Damico, and the latter's help, along with that of her friend Sandy Shumard and Sandy's brother in San Francisco, for their collective help in figuring out the translation of the Chinese inscription shown on the check illustrated in Figure 1. (-:

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A Check in Your Collection Could Make History

By DI Dr. Chris Wasshuber

You will not recognize my name, because I am not a check collector. However, I am somebody who is looking for a particular check to solve a decade long mystery. Perhaps you have this check in your collection, which would cause a sensation. Before I describe what check I am looking for a bit about the mystery itself.

In 1902 a book with the title "The Expert at the Card Table" was self-published by S. W. Erdnase in Chicago. This book is legendary among magicians and card sharks, because it outlines in detail the secret maneuvers, moves and sleights card players use to cheat or do magic tricks. It is essentially a manual of how to become an expert at sleight of hand with cards. The book is so well written and so advanced that to this day it is considered by most magicians and gamblers the best book on that subject. However, nobody knows who S. W. Erdnase was. For more than 70 years historians, researchers and other folks, even including the famous Martin Gardner, have actively searched for the elusive Erdnase, but to this day nobody could identify him. The name is a nom-de-plume, because no person with that surname ever existed.

In the 1940s Martin Gardner found the illustrator for the book who was Marshall D. Smith. Smith remembered meeting Erdnase in the winter of 1901 in a Chicago hotel to draw the illustrations for the book from live demonstrations by Erdnase. Erdnase paid Smith with a check. Smith remembered that the check was drawn to one of the large banks in Chicago, most likely First National. He also remembered that the number on the check was #1. Here is where you come in. Perhaps by some lucky coincidence one of you has this check in your collection. It would conclusively give us the real name of S. W. Erdnase and would solve this decade long mystery.

Additionally to this one particular check I am looking for any checks in the period from 1899 – 1903 that were either issued to or from James McKinney, who was the Chicago printer for the above mentioned book. Erdnase self-published his book and must have paid the printer probably also with a check. Failing to find any of these checks I would still be interested to see or purchase a check drawn to a Chicago bank that is roughly from that time period.

I would love to hear from you, even if it is only to understand the world of check collectors a little bit better. I can be reached by email to wasshuber@lybrary.com or by phone 617 417 8841.

Editor's Note: The only help I can give is that S.W. Erdnase is E.S. Andrews spelled backward. This would be quite a coincidence if it were not purposeful....

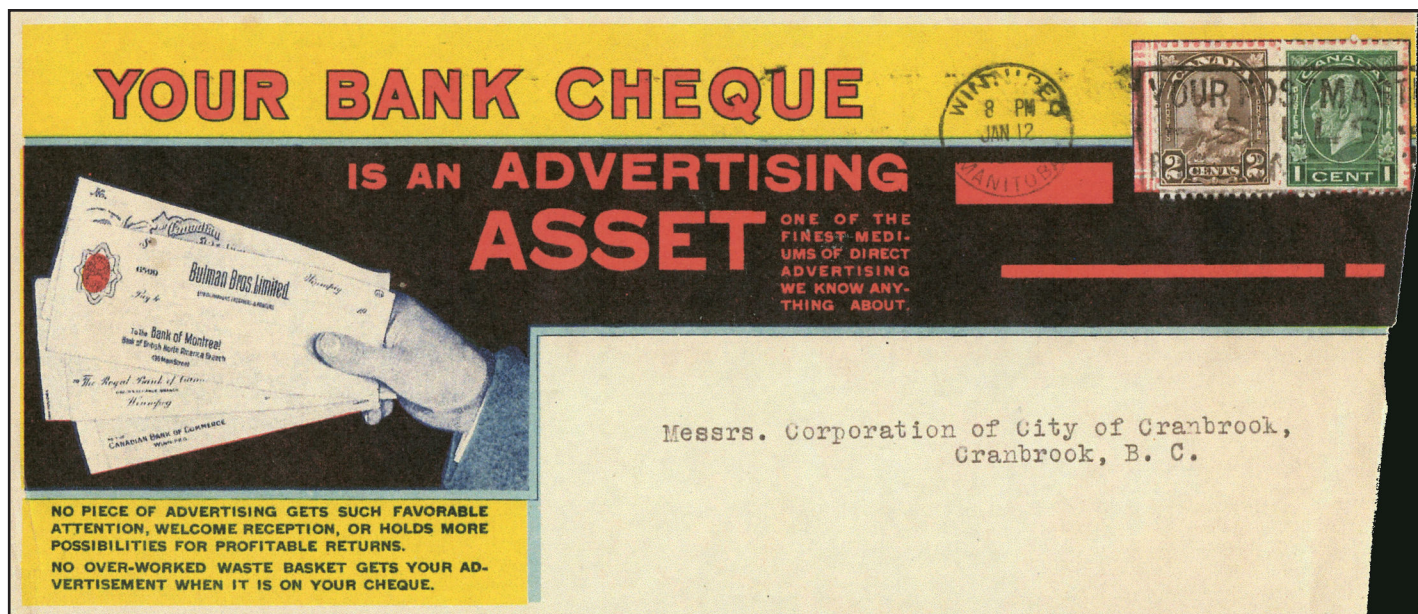
For those of us who collect revenue stamped paper, the first half of 1901 is still within the tax period for checks and drafts payable on sight, so look through your collection for any signed by either an Erdnase or an Andrews.



Unfortunately, not a contender, but a rather handsome merchant's draft from Chicago.

Find in the Marketplace

by Lee Poleske



An interesting illustrated advertising cover, touting the value of a business putting an advertisement on its checks. The top check illustrated at the left is that of the sender, whose return address on the back is: Bulman Bros., Ltd. Lithographers - Printers - Sales - Making Advertising, Winnipeg, Canada, who would no doubt benefit from businesses following its advice. The postmark has no year, but from the stamps used it was mailed around 1932.

Find in the Marketplace

by Bob Hohertz



A check for those people who live Behind the Looking Glass? This puzzling item is printed on heavy, slightly slick paper. It isn't obviously a modern computer creation, but barring that, it is difficult to tell why it was printed at all.

Collecting Territorial Paper - Part 11

By Jim Adams

A look at New Mexico territorial paper would not be complete without looking at some of that from places associated with the Colfax County War. We could spend a lot of space dealing with the war itself, but a quick summary is in order.

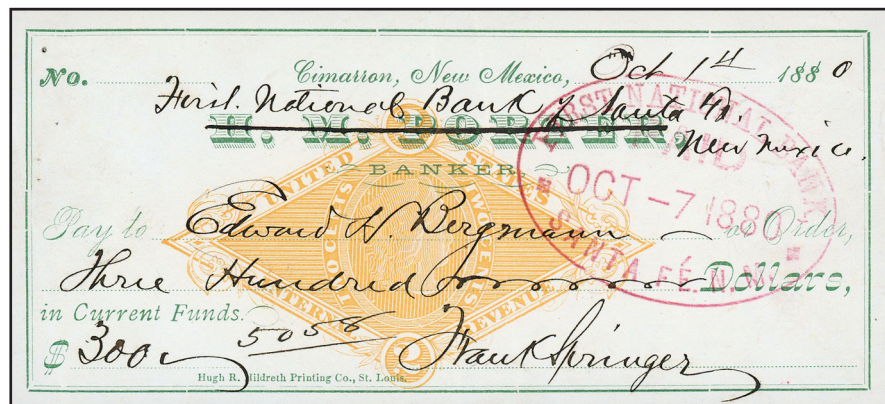
The Mexican government granted something over 900,000 acres of land to two families in order that it be settled to help with territorial claims north of the Rio Grande. Little settlement was achieved until Charles Lucien B. Maxwell, son-in-law of one of the Mexican land owners, came into possession of the whole area. Maxwell was a larger-than-life character who, in his prime, lived rather like an English Baron at the time of the Norman Conquest. Hospitable and brutal by turns, he eventually sold all of the land to English investors and died shortly after the money from the sale ran out.

The English investors began to try, by fair means or foul, to clear the settlers who had established homes on parts of the land (which somehow had expanded to more than 1,700,000 acres.) Crooked politicians, activist ministers, gunslingers, lawyers and militiamen escalated the whole matter into a war which ended badly for the settlers, but only after several reverses of fortune and a U.S. Supreme Court decision. The first set of foreign investors went bankrupt in the process, but the second set, made up of Dutch businessmen and some American tycoons, including George Pullman (see an article on Pullman palace car tickets further along in this issue) eventually dispossessed the settlers, though not entirely until the early Twentieth Century.



Henry Milton Porter was one of the final Directors of the bankrupt Maxwell Land Grant Company. He went to Cimarron in 1875 to take over the mercantile operations established by the Company, and became a Director of that company as well. As did some other proprietors of mercantile houses of the time, he operated as a banker for the surrounding area.

We hear that history is written by the victors, but in Porter's case, it also is written by the survivors. Porter lived almost to age 99, dying in 1937, shortly after publishing a book of New Mexico history, *Pencilings of an Early Western Pioneer*.



A Porter check altered for use with the First National Bank of Santa Fe by Frank Springer.

Springer was a talented lawyer who worked for a time for the Maxwell Land Grant Company, but did not agree with all of its policies. By the time the company was in receivership and Springer was called to testify about his part in some conflict of interest matters he replied as follows: "I was upon unfriendly terms, personally and in business relations with Stephen B. Elkins, who had formerly been president and general counsel of the Maxwell Land Grant and Railway Company, and I considered the appointment of John T. Elkins to survey the boundaries of the Grant as antagonistic to the interests of the company I represented, because I understood that John T. Elkins, the brother of Stephen B. Elkins, had a contract to survey another grant, in which Stephen B. Elkins had an interest."

Springer went on to argue the legality of the Maxwell Land Grant itself before the U.S. Supreme Court and prevailed. He also served as an attorney for the new Maxwell Land Grant Company, becoming independently wealthy such that he could retire from his law practice and pursue his love of paleontology. He devoted the rest of his life to collecting fossils, leaving his collection to the Smithsonian, and writing numerous books on the subject between 1879 and 1926. He died in 1927.



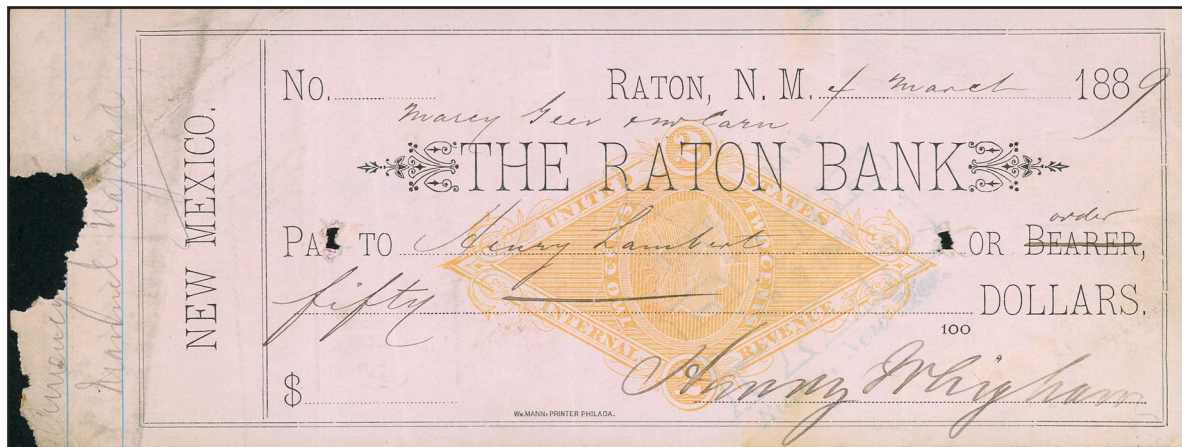
Another check on the First National Bank of Santa Fe written by Springer when he lived in Cimarron. Having no printed dateline, and written eight days after the altered one on the previous page, it is likely that Springer was waiting for a supply of these to arrive when he used the altered one.



Springer was popular enough among some factions in the state to have a town named after him.

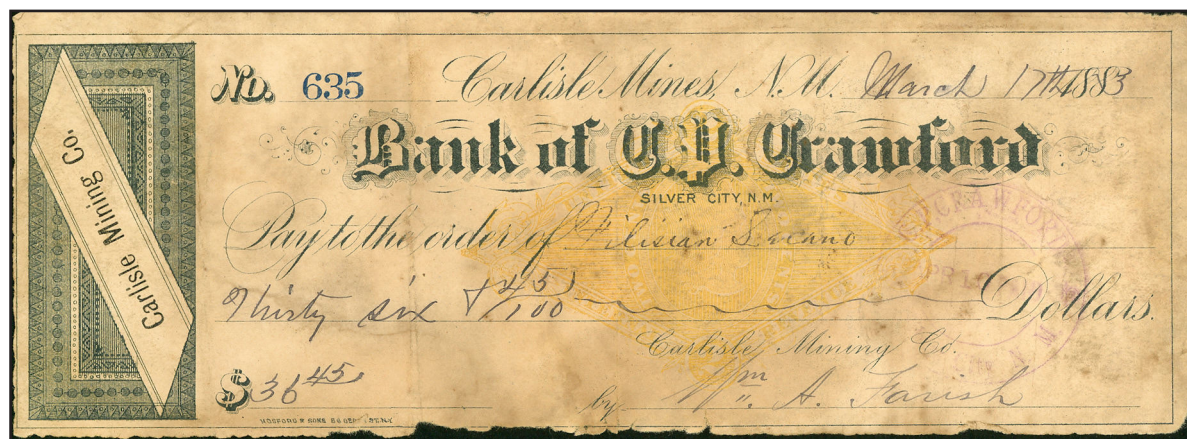
This check was used by someone who obviously had brought checks with himself from Kansas City, Missouri. This one was drawn on Browne and Manzanares of Las Vegas. (See the previous issue for information on this firm.)

Another figure in the business end of the Colfax County War was Henry Whigham, Assistant Secretary of the first Maxwell Land Grant Company. In the same trial as mentioned above, Whigham testified that he had also served as Secretary of the Maxwell Land Grant and Railway Company for a number of years, that it went bankrupt in 1875 and the Sheriff had sold off its property. Furthermore, he had not been paid for quite some time.



This less than pristine check was drawn by Henry Whigham on The Raton Bank in 1889.

Raton was the center of a number of skirmishes in the Colfax County War, some deadly, some, in retrospect, rather amusing. Much of this went on about four years before the check was drawn, though the basic problem remained unsolved. As Springer himself put it, one may not agree that the Land Grant should ever have been made, but it had been, and the supreme court of the land found it valid, so it cannot be ignored. But enforcing it, moving a number of settlers off the land they had turned into profitable ranches and leaving them virtually as refugees so a group of foreign investors and Eastern magnates can profit, can easily fly in the face of what we feel is right. But then, those on the side of the settlers being displaced participated in lynchings, summary executions and other dubious actions. Best we leave the subject, and the area.



If the last check was less than pristine, this one is downright bedraggled. Similar checks from the same user tend to be just as bad.

Carlisle was a mining boom town, growing to a thousand people rather rapidly after gold, silver and copper deposits were discovered in 1883. Activity declined in the late 1890's, but began again around 1932, lasting into the late 1940's. By the 1970's it had become a ghost town.

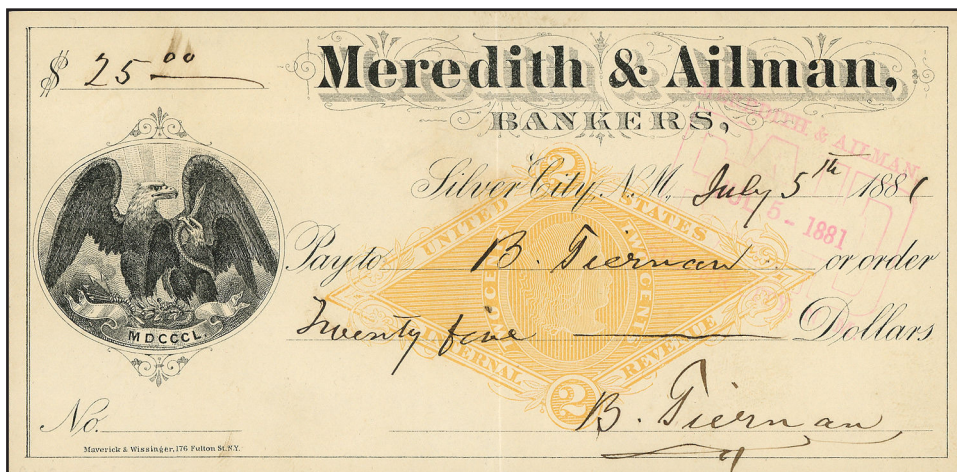
Some interesting stories about Carlisle in its heyday can be found in *Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of New Mexico* by James E. Sherman and Barbara H. Sherman. The Shermans mention the fellow who tried to thaw dynamite on his stove (he survived, but his stove and cabin didn't) and the unfortunate Dong Fook, who also had a run-in with dynamite before he became rich from his mining ventures. Apparently he lit a fuse and quickly climbed a ladder to get out of the pit, but the top rung broke and he ended up back at the bottom with a broken ankle. He managed to make it back to the top just as the dynamite exploded, and likely only survived because the Superintendent of Mines found him and took him to a doctor in Lordsburg.

C.P. Crawford of Silver City was one of the general merchandiser bankers, like Henry Porter. In fact, his firm was the successor to Porter & Crawford. It seems we can't get away from everyone involved in the War, no matter where we go in Nineteenth Century New Mexico.

Since we've reached Silver City, here are two checks written there.



This check, with no printed dateline was used in Silver City but drawn on the Second National Bank of New Mexico at Santa Fe. The writer was John B. Morrill, a general merchandiser in the town. This is a rather early check for New Mexico, written in 1876: most we have featured so far were dated in the 1880's.



Hartford M. Meredith and Henry B. Ailman began their partnership as developers of the Naiad Queen, the richest silver mine in the Georgetown area. When they sold it in 1880 they opened a mercantile store in Silver City and quickly branched into banking. The men had identical mansions built in town to house them and their growing families. By 1883 they had sold the mercantile business to devote all of their time to banking, but in 1887 the bank failed, and, having lost their identical mansions in the bank failure, both families left town to seek their fortunes elsewhere.

To be continued.

RN X1

by Bob Hohertz

Ok, so RN X1 wasn't used on checks, only on parlor car tickets. However, these do fall into the realm of revenue stamped documents, one of our membership categories. And it's possible that an exposure here to some of the documents might result in someone noticing one that those of us who do collect them don't even know exists.

X1 is the 1¢ Spanish American War imprint in rose. To the best of my knowledge, only the Pullman Company used it in this color, on three different styles of ticket, and in two different shades, one of which the Scott *Specialized* calls dark red.

The first style was issued in four parts: one for the ticket agent, one for the porter, one for the auditor and one to be retained by the passenger. These tickets are rare unused: I know of four. Two of these have punched initials of the General Ticket Agent, W.I. Midler, and were supplied as samples to Henry Mudge, avid collector and onetime President of the APS, in 1908. Another is invalidated by a row of punches along one side, and the fourth apparently was purchased but not used during the tax period.

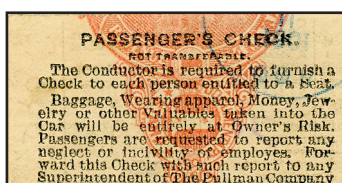


One of the two tickets with "WIM" punched in them and a rose imprint on the back.

Back of the ticket above. Wording on the passenger's stub is of the style and content to indicate that the ticket would have been printed early in 1902. This would be consistent with it having been available to send Mudge in 1908.



Used partials of this type of ticket usually only consist of the passenger's stub, but also can be found with the auditor's stub attached. The single stubs are neither easy to find nor really rare, while the double stubs are quite uncommon. All of the imprints on these tickets are printed in various shades of rose.



The first stub, used in 1901, contains different wording than the other two, and the type size differs on the second and the third, though the wording is the same.

The second style is a two-part ticket with multiple destinations listed. There are several subtypes of these, only one of which is currently known unused, one copy only. Here it is.

AUDITOR'S CHECK.

THE PULLMAN COMPANY.

Conductor: J. Car: Special No. 2

DATE: JAN. 1 1902

SEAT: 1

From: Jersey City

To: Philadelphia

Good for one seat in Parlor Car between Stations indicated in the direction and on date punched.

DEC. NOV. OCT. SEPT. AUG. JULY JUNE MAY APRIL MARCH FEB. JAN.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

SEATS

PASSENGER'S CHECK.—Not Transferable.

THE PULLMAN COMPANY.

Conductor: J. Car: Special No. 7

DATE: JAN. 1 1902

SEAT: 1

From: Jersey City

To: Philadelphia

Good for one seat in Parlor Car between Stations indicated in the direction and on date punched.

DEC. NOV. OCT. SEPT. AUG. JULY JUNE MAY APRIL MARCH FEB. JAN.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

SEATS

Used partials (halves) are a bit more common, but still difficult to find.

PASSENGER'S CHECK.—Not Transferable.

THE PULLMAN COMPANY.

Conductor: J. Car: Special No. 2

DATE: JAN. 1 1902

SEAT: 1

From: Jersey City

To: Philadelphia

Good for one seat in Parlor Car between Stations indicated in the direction and on date punched.

DEC. NOV. OCT. SEPT. AUG. JULY JUNE MAY APRIL MARCH FEB. JAN.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

SEATS

PASSENGER'S CHECK.—Not Transferable.

THE PULLMAN COMPANY.

Conductor: J. Car: Special No. 7

DATE: JAN. 1 1902

SEAT: 1

From: Jersey City

To: Philadelphia

Good for one seat in Parlor Car between Stations indicated in the direction and on date punched.

DEC. NOV. OCT. SEPT. AUG. JULY JUNE MAY APRIL MARCH FEB. JAN.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

SEATS

The stub at left is from a Special No. 2 ticket like the entire shown above it. The one at right is from a Special No. 7 ticket. From wording on the back, both were used prior to 1902, and my belief is that red imprints were not used before 1901.

These larger tickets were likely designed to be purchased at the various stations along the routes. Special No. 2 stations included Jersey City, Trenton, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, with a branch to Cape May, Point Pleasant and Beach Haven. The passenger using this one traveled from Baltimore to Philadelphia on the Valkyr, which had 24 seats, one drawing room and a buffet.

The Special No. 7 ticket allowed for a much further ranging scope: New York to Saint Louis. The passenger using this one went from New York to Buffalo, but there is no legible name of the car he or she traveled in.

The third type of ticket was used when luxury accommodations were purchased on board the train. These also consist of two parts: one for the auditor and one for the passenger. A small number of entires with the imprint in rose exist - four or five appeared in a series of auctions a dozen or so years ago.

Auditor's Check
 Not Transferable
 CAR FROM TO
 Conductor
 Line No. 152143

Passenger's Check
 Not Transferable
 CAR FROM TO
 Conductor
 Line No. 152143

Auditor's Check
 Not Transferable
 CAR FROM TO
 Conductor
 Line No. 152143

Passenger's Check
 Not Transferable
 CAR FROM TO
 Conductor
 Line No. 152143

Partials of these tickets are not scarce. I have roughly 45 of them for my research, and I doubt I have cornered the market. One interesting thing, though, is that one of those in my collection has the imprint oriented the opposite way from all the others (lower right, above,) including as many more with the imprint in orange. I consider it an invert, caused by the imprint printer putting the ticket or stack of tickets, if there was a press feeder, in the press upside down. Incidentally, the imprints on both of the stubs are a much darker shade of rose than that on the entire ticket.

The dark red imprints listed in Scott are surely those on the two-part tickets used in early 1902. These have a yellow tint to the background rather than green for the rose imprints, and the imprint color is strikingly different. To my eyes it is more of a red-orange, intensified by the yellow background. I know of one entire, but, of course, more may exist. Even the stubs are not at all common, having been in use for six months or less. I own seven or eight dark red partials, as compared to the 45 or so rose stubs.

Auditor's Check
 Not Transferable
 CAR FROM TO
 Conductor
 Line No. 152143

Passenger's Check
 Not Transferable
 CAR FROM TO
 Conductor
 Line No. 152143

Auditor's Check
 Not Transferable
 CAR FROM TO
 Conductor
 Line No. 152143

Passenger's Check
 Not Transferable
 CAR FROM TO
 Conductor
 Line No. 152143

A dark red entire and stub. These were the last colors that Pullman used on their two-part tickets purchased on board.

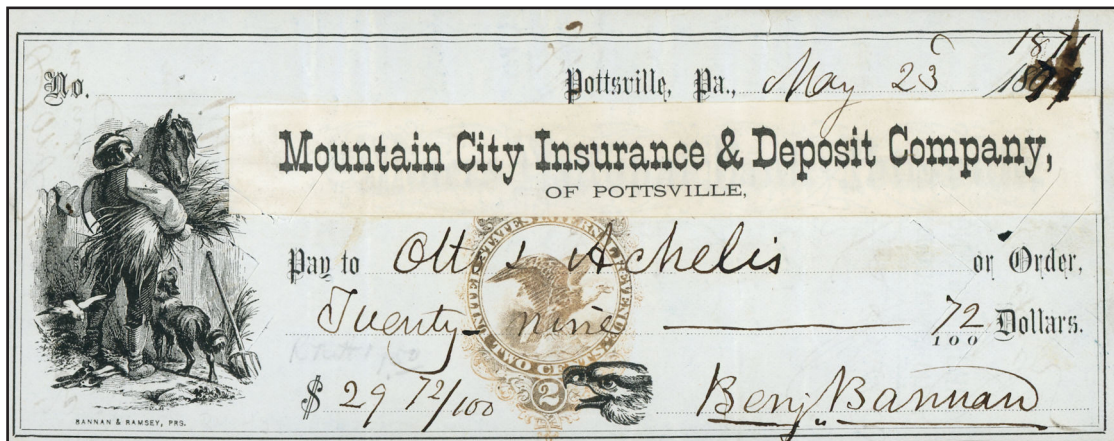
All this must call into question the Scott listings, since they do not provide for a dark red entire nor distinguish between the scarcity of the rose and the dark red partials in their pricing.

And what still hides in railroadiana collections?

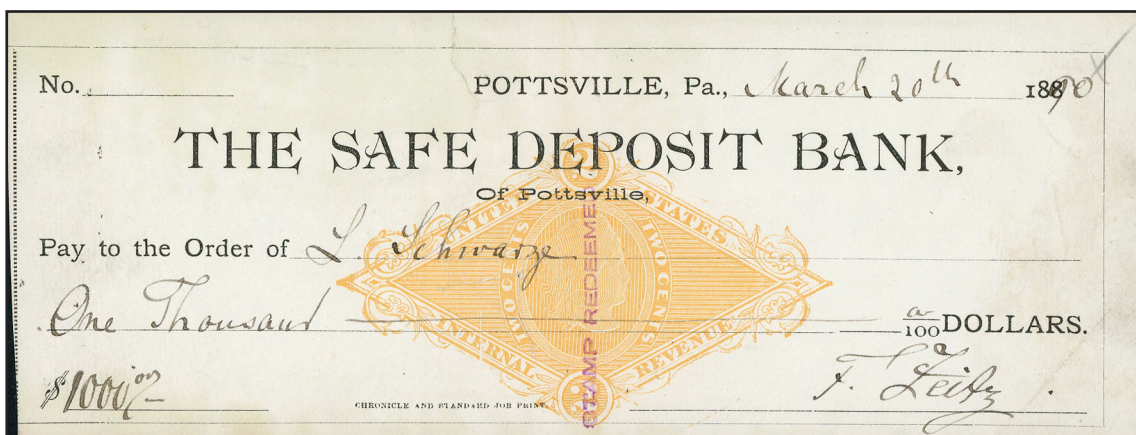
Pennsylvania Banks - 30 by Peter Robin

I request the help of all readers in adding information to these listings as well as, of course, the counties to come. I can be reached by e-mail at peterrobin@verizon.net or by regular mail at Box 353, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004.

Bank Name	Stamp	Years	Printer	Colors	Vignette/User	Size in mm
Schuylkill County						
Ashland N. B. of Ashland	None	1902	FRM	Tan on White	Monogram / Adam Waldner	208 x 77 mm.
Citizens N.B. of Ashland	None	1896	L&B	Black on Rose	Bank building	208 x 71 mm.
First N. B. of Ashland	R152	1877	B&H	Black on White	Long train	193 x 76 mm.
First N. B. of Girardville	R164	1899	SMC	Black on Old Rose	Stamp block	202 x 75 mm.
Citizens Safe Deposit Bank of Mahanoy City	R135	1875	None	Black on Lavender	Ornamental stamp block	198 x 74 mm.
Union N. B. of Mahanoy City	R155	1898	WFM	Black on Blue	Fancy mgm / Chas. D. Kaier	210 x 83 mm.
Same	R164	1899	None	Black on White	None	200 x 80 mm.
First N. B. of Mahanoy City	R6	1866	C&H	Black on White	Ornamental design	174 x 67mm.
Same	R152	1880	D&H	Black on White	None	177 x 74 mm.
Miners' Bank of Pottsville	None	1861	BBP	Blue on White	Train engine	173 x 66 mm.
Miners' Life Insurance and Trust Company of Pottsville	R15	1869	C&H	Black on White	Ornamental design	
Miner's N. B. of Pottsville	R15	1869	BBa	Black on White	Allegorical Industry	190 x 73 mm.
Same	R135	1871	B&R	Black on White	None	178 x 69 mm.
Miners' Trust Company Bank of Pottsville						
Successor to Miners' Life...	R135	1872/72	WmM	Green or Violet on White	Liberty with fasces	207 x 78 mm.
Mountain City Insurance and Depositt Company	H3	1871	BaR	Black on White	Farmer, dog, horse	185 x 73 mm.



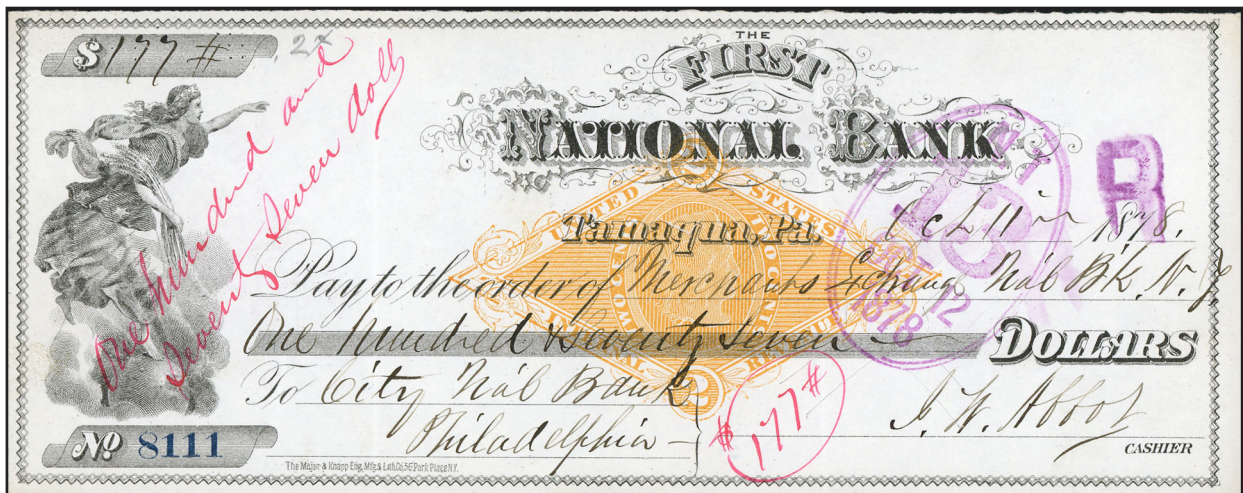
Pardee, Markle, & Grier	F1	1876	S&B	Green on White	PENNSYLVANIA	200 x 75 mm.
Pennsylvania N. B. of Pottsville	R152	1879	BDB	Black on White	PENNSYLVANIA	200 x 73 mm.



Safe Deposit Bank of Pottsville	J4	1873	B&R	Black on White	Bank building entrance	210 x 90 mm.
Same	R152	1880	JMM	Orange on White	Thos. B. Bannan	197 x 70 mm.
Same	R152	1882	Miller	Black on Tan	None	192 x 65 mm.
Same	None	1889	None	Orange on White	W.R.Mason, Grocer	191 x 72 mm.
Same	R164	1899	MPP	Red on White	Charles Short	
Same	G1	1890	CSt	Black on White	Stamp redeemed	188 x 72 mm.
Schuylkill Trust Company	R164	1899	None	Black on Tan	Bank building	213 x 85 mm.
First N. B. of Shenandoah	R164	1899	P&R	Black on L. Green	None	207 x 82 mm.
Same	R164	1900	McM	Black on White	None	214 x 77 mm.
First N. B. of Tamaqua	H3	1867	None	Green on White	2 large and 2 small vignettes	207 x 87 mm.
Same	H3	1868	WFM	Green on White	2 large and 2 small vignettes	207 x 87 mm.



Same	C1	1871	M&K	Black on White	Woman on globe	210 x 82 mm.
Same	G1	1878	M&K	Black on White	Woman on globe	205 x 81 mm.



To be continued.

Announcements

Suzanne and Dick Naven Gift. Suzanne and Dick Naven, owners of the Oregon Paper Money Exchange, closed their business earlier this year. They generously donated their remaining stock of financial documents to the ASCC, to be sold with the proceeds going to the ASCC. It appears that when all are sold the net proceeds will be almost \$2,000. A heartfelt thank you to the Navens. Receipt of their donation couldn't have happened at a better time.

ASCC Finances and Membership. As you can see in the Secretary's report in this issue, our membership has dropped to 125. It is hard for me to understand why. Our dues are only \$15 per year and Bob Hohertz always produces a quality journal, often writing whatever interesting articles are necessary to have a complete journal. In my opinion its quality has improved in the last several years, but at a minimum it has not declined.

If you refer to the Treasurer's Report in first quarter, 2015 issue of *The Check Collector* you will see that our total expenses for 2014 were \$2,674, and expenses for 2015 should be close to this amount. Paid memberships of 120 (we have five complimentary membes,) at the rate of \$15, produces only \$1,800 annually, an \$874 shortfall. For 120 members to cover this amount dues would have to be increased to \$22, but such an increase would certainly cause some additional members to drop out.

We have a balance in the treasury of about \$5,000 counting the Naven's gift. This can be used to absorb modest deficits for several years, but we obviously need additional members. Your efforts to recruit new members and suggestions on how we can increase membership would be welcome.



This is a late use of an earlier Cimarron, New Mexico check than those shown elsewhere in this issue. Porter and Middaugh was the predecessor mercantile organization to H.M. Porter. The imprint, applied before late 1875, is a K-11.

Frank Springer used this check to pay five thousand dollars to Porter in 1881. Since the check was printed with a 187_ dateline it's likely that Porter had it lying around somewhere and gave it to Springer to use, as it was from the Santa Fe bank where Springer had an account. Read more about these gentlemen in *Collecting Territorial Paper* in this issue.

Hermann Gwenter

Member Exchange

Collector seeks Oklahoma Territory & Indian Territory checks. Top prices paid. **Bob Fritz**, P.O. Box 1548, Sun City, AZ 85372-1548.

New member is interested in pre-1950 Wisconsin checks. Will purchase or trade for any needed. **Tom Casper**, S95W13453 St. Andrews Dr., Muskego, WI 53150. E-mail tcasper57@hotmail.com.

Charter member would like to obtain a check from the "Washington National Bank" or the Telegraphers National Bank", both of Saint Louis, MO. Will purchase or trade. **Ron Horstman**, 5010 Timber Lane, Gerald, MO 63037.

Wanted: Checks from dealers in Indian relics or fossils - or signed by archaeologists or paleontologists. Or other related paper. Write: **Stan Rough**, 4217 8th Avenue, Temple, PA 19570-1805.

Wanted: "Manuscript" aka completely handwritten checks. All states and dates (generally pre-1900. **Sheldon Rabin**, 2820 Breckenridge Circle, Aurora, IL 60504, sheldonrabin@yahoo.com.

Dealer wants checks signed by celebrities. No quantity too large. **Myron Ross**, Heroes & Legends, 18034 Ventura Blvd., Encino, CA 91316

Collector seeks checks autographed by famous people. Top prices paid. **Michael Reynard**, 1301 20th Street #260, Santa Monica, CA 90404. reynard@ucla.edu

Exchange postings will be taken from ASCC members who are collectors only. Postings of 20 words or less are free; please remit \$3 each issue for postings of 21 to fifty words. Name and address do **not** count toward the 20 words.

Neither the Editor nor the ASCC can be responsible for compliance with any promises made in postings, or in response to them. Be very clear as to the value you place on your material when discussing a trade. Fairness and common courtesy are to be expected, but common sense must rule.

Secretary's Report

Lyman Hensley

Previous Total	147	1909 Gibson, Mike
New Members	0	1814 Guzowski, Robert
Reinstatements	0	1803 Hawes, Robert M.
Resignations	0	1899 Hillman, Alan
Deaths	0	0686 Hogg, James W.
Undeliverable	0	1870 Horowitz, Norman P.
Dropped - Not Paid	22	1889 Jude, Columbus
Current Total	125	1714 Keller, Brian J.
		1853 Kirchner, Robert L.
		1908 Launier, Art
		1350 Masterson, K J
		1857 Minster, Barry
		1910 Reed, Fred
		1773 Shafer, Neil
		1911 von Hardenberg, Wayne
		1912 Workman, William
Dropped - Not Paid		
1868 Bowler, Christina		
0125 Brick, Dale E.		
1669 Chadwick, R. W.		
1022 Conklin, Tom		
1647 Couitt, Stephen J.		
1888 Garner, Richard		

UNITED STATES REVENUE STAMPED PAPER

RN-A8 to RN-X4a

and a good selection of RM documents

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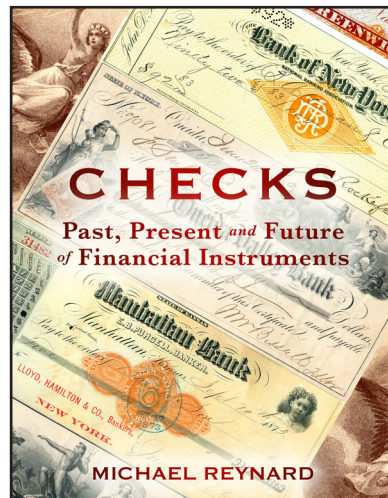
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CHECKS



"Checks is a milestone in the field of financial ephemera" ...W.C.

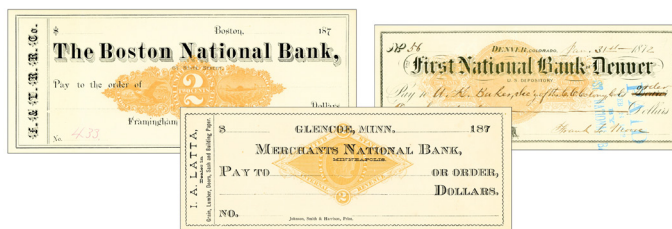
Checks is a comprehensive resource that describes the history, variety and popularity of checks as collectible treasures. This beautifully illustrated ebook appeals to anyone interested in finance, art and technology as it relates to the development of checks.

Order your copy at www.BooksAboutChecks.com

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The undersigned hereby applies for membership in the American Society of Check Collectors, Inc., and agrees to comply with its Charter and By-Laws.

Enclosed with this application is \$15 for dues (\$20 for U.S. mailing of *The Check Collector* by First Class Mail, \$20 for Canada, \$25 for other foreign countries,) OR electronic membership only, any country, \$13 (no magazine will be sent - can be read online or downloaded.) U.S. funds only. Please make remittance payable to: The American Society of Check Collectors, Inc. OR pay by PayPal on the ASCC website: www.ascheckcollectors.org.

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

E-mail address: _____

New Application _____ Reinstatement _____

Collector _____ Collector/Dealer _____ Dealer _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

I found out about the ASCC through: _____

If paying by *other than PayPal*, please complete this form, enclose remittance for membership and mail to the Secretary:

Lyman Hensley, 473 East Elm, Sycamore, IL 60178, USA

Please circle the numbers that indicate your areas of collecting interest. This information will be listed with your name on our membership roster.

1. Checks, General

2. Checks, U.S.

Region or States of Interest: _____

3. U.S. Government Checks

4. Miscellaneous Fiscal Documents

Bank Drafts

Bills of Exchange

Certificates of Deposit

Promissory Notes

Receipts

Warrants

5. Checks, Great Britain

6. Checks, Canada

7. Checks, World

Region or Countries of Interest: _____

8. Travelers Checks and Money Orders

9. Specimen Checks

10. Ration Checks

11. Refund/Rebate Checks

12. Other: _____

14. Counter and Modern Checks

20. Vignettes

21. Autographs

22. Railroads, Steamboats, Mining

23. Banking History

24. Security Printers and Printing

25. Check Protectors and Cancel Devices

26. Wells Fargo History

30. Stocks and Bonds

31. Revenue Stamped Documents

32. Emergency Scrip